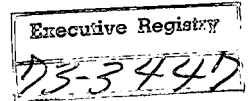


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OLC 73-0745

22 June 1973

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Senate Armed Services Committee Hearings on Laos

1. At 1600 hours today, Ed Braswell, Chief Counsel, Senate Armed Services Committee, called to say the Committee plans executive hearings on Laos on Wednesday, 27 June, probably at 10:00 a.m. with the simultaneous participation of Defense Department and Agency representatives.

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2. In opening the conversation, Braswell expressed "amazement" to learn the [redacted] were to be funded for another year under MASF--he indicated that he had been led to believe they would be funded henceforth under MAP.

3. According to Braswell, the Committee's interest will focus on the following questions:

a. Who is spending what for what in Laos and on what authority?

b. To what extent is CIA involved in Laos, in terms of money, manpower and mission, and on what authority?

4. Braswell said we can expect further legislative efforts to restrict and reduce the U.S. role, and the Agency's role, in Laos. As an example he mentioned the "Symington ceiling" of last year.

5. Braswell said that although there was little chance that Mr. Schlesinger would be confirmed as Secretary of Defense prior to the hearing and he would thus still be the Director of Central Intelligence, he thought it

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more appropriate for Mr. Colby to be the Agency's chief spokesman, partly because of his background in the area and partly because the Committee's interest would center on future plans as well as current programs in the area. Braswell said the Committee staff will meet on Monday, 25 June, to refine their plans for the hearing and he will let us know the results.

6. I reported the foregoing to Mr. Colby who requests that EA Division prepare the necessary material, coordinating with OGC and OLC (regarding the legal authorities for our Laotian involvement); OPPB (regarding funding); DOD (to ensure our respective presentations are consistent); and State (regarding policy or other matters of State concern).

7. Mr. Colby plans a meeting of representatives of the above-mentioned Agency components on the afternoon of Monday, 25 June.

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JOHN M. MAURY
Legislative Counsel

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